

Message Text

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INTAF NAPLES
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AMCONSUL IZMIR

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE ANKARA 9673
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TAGS: PFOR, MILI, TU
SUBJECT: ECEVIT COMMENTS ON DEFENSE POLICY

1. IN AN INTERVIEW WITH WEST GERMAN NEWS SERVICE DPA
PUBLISHED IN DECEMBER 21, 'MILLIYET', REPUBLICAN PEOPLE'S
PARTY (RPP) CHAIRMAN ECEVIT STATED THAT WHILE TURKEY
SHOULD NOT LEAVE NATO IT SHOULD CUT BACK ITS CONTRIBUTION
TO THE ALLIANCE. FOLLOWING IS AN INFORMAL TRANSLATION
OF ECEVIT'S REMARKS:

"AFTER WHAT HAS HAPPENED IN OUR RELATIONS WITH
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NATO AND THE UNITED STATES AND THE CHANGES THAT HAVE
TAKEN PLACE IN THE WORLD IN RECENT YEARS, THE RPP
DOES NOT BELIE TO ALONE.WE DO NOT ENVISAGE LEAVING
NATO AS LONG AS IT IS SIGNIFICANT FOR THE BALANCE,
DETENTE AND PEACE OF THE WORLD. WE DO NOT WANT TO
70 35 5#3 3, 858;3 294)\$?-),:3 2#8:# 8 5#3 ?- 8

9* \$353,53 -,\$ 03-:3. THAT IS WHY WE DO NOT WANT TO
LEAVE NATO."

"IT IS OBVIOUS, HOWEVER, THAT WE SHOULD REDUCE
OUR CONTRIBUTION TO NATO. WHILE REMAINING A NATO
MEMBER, WE SHOULD DEVELOP OUR OWN NATIONAL DEFENSE,
APART FROM OUR NATO COMMITMENTS WHICH SHOULD BE
REDUCED. HOWEVER, THIS SHOULD NOT CLASH WITH OUR
NATO MEMBERSHIP. WE BELIEVE THAT THE BEST MEANS OF
ACHIEVING SECURITY IS NOT NECESSARILY BECOMING MORE AND
MORE ARMED AT ALL TIMES. THE BEST WAY OF ACHIEVING
SECURITY IS TO MAINTAIN GOOD RELATIONS WITH NEIGHBORS
AND ACHIEVE MUTUAL CONFIDENCE."

2. COMMENT: ECEVIT'S STATEMENT IS SIMILAR TO THE POSI-
TION PROPOSED TO THE RPP NATIONAL CONVENTION IN LATE
NOVEMBER AND PRESAGES A FURTHER DIMINUATION OF THE
IMPORTANCE ASSIGNED BY TURKEY'S LARGEST POLITICAL PARTY TO THE
NORTH ATLANTIC ALLIANCE. THE 1973 RPP ELECTION MANIFESTO
WHICH HAD CALLED FOR A STRENGTHENING OF TURKEY'S
OWN DEFENSE CAPABILITIES ALSO SUPPORTED THE
ALLIANCE AS THE CORNERSTONE OF TURKEY'S NATIONAL
SECURITY POLICY.
MACOMBER

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